

Journal, 1904-
1905.

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BOSTON HERALD

Vol. CXV., No. 63.

THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 1904.

BIRDS HAVE SUFFERED DURING THE HARD WINTER.

Result of the Investigations of Mr. Edward Howe Forbush—Not Too Late for All to Help.

To the Editor of The Herald:

Another snow storm is making conditions worse than ever for the birds, and another appeal should be made to the people to feed them. In a recent trip made through central and western Massachusetts, to collect information relative to the destruction of birds by storms, the writer found that the supply of winter-cured berries, on which so many birds depend for food during storms, was largely exhausted. Early in the season a great flight of pine grosbeaks took many, if not most, of some kinds of berries. Flocks of crows from the north have been forced to live much on bayberries here, thus cutting off the food supply of the smaller birds. Woodchoppers and others reported finding coveys of the bob-white or quail dead in the woods.

The freezing weather following snow and rain froze the snow solid and imprisoned grouse and quail beneath it. There are a few quail left alive in the Connecticut valley and live grouse were found here and there. In some sections grouse, jays and crows are coming into the villages to be fed. It is a very hard winter that will starve out grouse, for they can exist if they can find a few fresh twigs. Jays and crows were found to be picking up refuse thrown out near hotels and boarding houses. One crow in this town came so near a house that it was caught by a cat. When the wary crow is reduced to this, what must be the fate of the smaller birds.

A teamster in Amherst hauling wood was surprised when eating his lunch in the woods to see the birds come and try to take the food from his hand. People in this part of the state believe that the meadow larks which usually winter here have nearly all died.

All these birds might have been saved by feeding them a little grain. Fortunately, the appeals made through the press by the Audubon societies and by Mr. Baynes have induced some people to feed birds. Where food had been put out some birds were seen, but elsewhere they had nearly all disappeared. All that is necessary now to provide food for most birds until spring opens is to throw out crumbs from the tables, chaff from barn or stable floors and a little cracked grain.

This will provide food for sparrows, larks and quail. We should also fasten on trees, out of reach of dogs, uncleaned bones from the market cracked open to expose the marrow, also pieces of beef trimmings, suet or any fat, unsalted meat; this will feed chickadees, woodpeckers, nuthatches and jays.

If chaff or cracked grain is thrown under an open shed facing south, this will provide both food and protection.

When food is put out at a distance from buildings care should be taken to place it within a few rods of a thicket or a group of thick evergreen trees, to which birds can fly if pursued by hawks. The season of 1903 and the following winter have been memorable because of the destruction of birds by the elements. The hot, dry weather of May was followed by numerous forest fires which destroyed the nests of the wood birds. Then the cold rains of June killed many swallows, martens, chimney swifts and other insect-eating birds. The floods resulting from the rains drowned out the nests of the swamp and marsh birds. Later violent wind storms blew down the nests of many arboreal species. All this has been followed by one of the hardest winters ever known, with much suffering among the winter birds.

The destruction among these useful creatures has been so great that it now becomes our duty to assist them to re-establish themselves.

Birds should now be fed and encouraged in every possible way. Teach the children to feed the birds, to put up nesting boxes and furnish nesting material. The child who begins by working for the birds will not end by destroying them. The writer will be glad to hear from those who have facts as to the destruction of bird life by the elements or other causes, and the means that have been taken to relieve them.

EDWARD HOWE FORBUSH.

Wareham.

Concord, Mass.

1904

March 29

Brilliantly clear with light N. W. wind. Ther. 24° at sunrise.

Came to Concord by 1.47 P. M. train driving down from the Station. He told that a week ago to day the entire country was snow covered. To-day the fields were entirely bare and the roads settled and dry but there is still plenty of snow in the woods.

Birds were abundant everywhere. I saw quantities of Robins & heard a number of Bluebirds singing. Saw a flock of about 25 of Sparrows in Ralls nursery and found as many more at the farm where they were feeding on millet seed in the patch by the barn. There were a number of Juncos & Song Sparrows with them. Saw a Phoebe by the barn & another on the Station floor. Red-wings & Rusties flying over at evening. At sunset a woodcock began peeping in the heavy pasture & a little later it rose & sang a number of times.

1904.

Birds noted at Bethel, Maine

September 8 - 30

1. *Merula migratoria* 28^{hd.} 30⁴
9' 10¹⁵ 12¹⁰ 13¹⁰ 16⁴ 18⁴ 19³⁰ 20⁽²⁰⁾ 21¹⁰ 22⁽¹⁵⁾ 23⁶ 24⁴ 25^{hd.} 26⁽⁸⁾ 27⁶
2. *Turdus padasi* 10⁽³⁾ 16⁽²⁾ 18^{(5) mixed} 19⁽⁵⁾ 20^{1st off} 22² 23¹ 24¹ 26⁵ 27⁴ 28² 29⁽³⁾ 30²
3. " *swainsoni* 10' 12'
4. *Sialia sialis* 10^{hd.} 13⁽²⁾ 15⁽⁴⁾ 16^{hd.} 17⁽⁶⁾ 18⁽⁵⁾ 20^{(40) c} 22⁽⁶⁾ 23⁽⁶⁾ 24^{hd.} 26⁽¹⁰⁾ 27³⁰ 29³
5. *Parus atricapillus* 10^{hd.} 12^{hd.} 16^{1/2} 17^{1/2} 20^{hd.} 22^{hd.} 26⁽⁶⁾ 27⁽⁶⁾ 30⁽⁸⁾
6. *Sitta canadensis* 11^{hd.} 17⁽²⁾ 26⁽³⁾ 27¹ 29² 30¹
7. *Certhia americana* 9' 10' 15' 17^{hd.} 19^{hd.} 20^{hd.}
8. *Dendroica coronata* 9^{hd.} 10^{hd.} 15^{hd.} 16^{hd.} 17^{hd.} 19³ 20³ 22³ 23¹⁵ 24⁶ 26¹² 27²¹ 28¹⁰ 30¹
9. " *maculosa* 10' 27^{hd.}
10. *Helminthophila leucophaea* 10' 27⁽²⁾
11. *Vireo gilvus* 10² 11^{1/2} 12³ 13³ 16^{1/2} 17^{1/2}
12. *Ampelis cedrorum* 9^{hd.} 10^{hd.} 12^{hd.} 13^{hd.} 15^{hd.} 16^{hd.} 20^{hd.}
13. *Carpodacus purpureus* 9^{hd.} 10^{hd.} 12^{hd.} 13^{hd.} 15^{hd.} 16^{hd.} 19^{hd.} 20^{hd.} 24^{hd.} 26^{hd.} 27^{hd.}
14. *Zonotrichia albicollis* 9² 12² 13² 15² 17^{hd.} 21¹ 22⁽³⁾ 23⁽³⁾ 24⁽³⁾ 25⁽³⁾ 26³ 27⁴⁰ 28¹⁰ 30¹
15. *Spizella socialis* 8⁽⁴⁰⁾ 9⁽⁵⁰⁾ 10⁽³⁰⁾ 12⁽³⁰⁾ 13⁽³⁰⁾ 15⁽³⁰⁾ 16⁽²⁰⁾ 17⁽¹⁰⁾ 18⁽¹⁰⁾ 19⁽³⁰⁾ 20⁽¹⁰⁾ 21⁽¹⁵⁾ 22⁽¹⁰⁾
16. *Junco hyemalis* 8¹ 12² 13³ 15³ 16⁵ 17²⁵ 18⁶ 19⁽¹⁰⁾ 20¹⁵ 21¹⁰ 22²⁵ 23⁽²⁵⁾ 24⁽¹⁰⁾
17. *Melospiza melodia* 8² 9² 10¹ 13² 15² 17² 21¹ 22² 23¹² 24⁸ 25² 26² 28^{1/2} 30⁽²⁾
18. *Spinus tristis* 10^{hd.} 12^{hd.} 13^{hd.} 15^{hd.} 16^{hd.} 18^{hd.} 23^{hd.} 28^{hd.}
19. *Corvus americanus* 9^{hd.} 10^{hd.} 13⁽⁵⁾ 15^{hd.} 16^{hd.} 19^{hd.} 20^{hd.} 23^{hd.} 24⁽³⁾ 25⁽³⁾ 26⁴ 27³⁰ 28⁽³⁾
20. *Cyanocitta cristata* 9^{hd.} 12^{hd.} 15^{hd.} 16⁽⁵⁾ 18⁽²⁾ 20⁽²⁾ 26⁽³⁾ 27^{hd.} 28^{hd.}
21. *Geothlypis trichas* 9^{hd.} 19¹ 26³
22. *Trochilus colubris* 11' 12' 15'
23. *Sayornis phoebe* 9' 12' 16' 21'
24. *Dendroica pennsylvanica* 12^{1st}
25. *Buteo lineatus* 9^{hd.} 12² 1st seen well
2nd seen one above house 16^{1/2}
26. " *latissimus* 12⁽²⁾ 2nd seen one
3rd seen one
4th seen one
27. *Circus hudsonius* 11^{1st} 2nd seen one
3rd seen one
28. *Nyctanodrus griseus* 15^{1st} 2nd seen one
3rd seen one
4th seen one
5th seen one
6th seen one
7th seen one
8th seen one
9th seen one
10th seen one
11th seen one
12th seen one
13th seen one
14th seen one
15th seen one
16th seen one
17th seen one
18th seen one
19th seen one
20th seen one
21st seen one
22nd seen one
23rd seen one
24th seen one
25th seen one
26th seen one
27th seen one
28th seen one
29th seen one
30th seen one
29. *Anthus ludovicianus* 15^{hd.} 17⁽⁶⁾ 19⁽¹²⁾ 20⁽¹²⁾ 21⁽¹²⁾ 22⁽¹²⁾ 23⁽¹²⁾ 24⁽¹²⁾ 25⁽¹²⁾ 26⁽¹²⁾ 27⁽¹²⁾
30. *Vireo solitarius* 16^{1/2} 20⁽⁸⁾ 27¹

Birds noted at Bethel, Maine.

1904. September 8 - 30

31. Mniotilta hyemalis 16' 26'
32. Dendroica virens 16' juv 26' 2 adults 27' ad.
33. Ceryle alcyon 13' 1' ^{in lake} 21' do. 22' flying over Dr. G's house 24'
34. Ardea herodias 16' 24' ^{in lake} 19' 26'
35. Potamocheilus griseus 16' " 23' 27'
36. Regulus calendula 16' 26'
37. Colaptes auratus 15' 17' 19' 20' 21' 22' 26' 27'
38. Sitta carolinensis 17' ^{in lake} 17' 26'
39. Bonasa umbellus lagotis 17' 3' 18' 19' 24' 26' 27'
40. Rhyacophila salicaria 17' ^{in lake} 19' 26'
41. Dendroica p. hypochrysa 19' ^{in lake} 19' 26'
42. Dryobates pubescens 20' ^{in lake} 22' do 27'
43. " villosus 20' " 30'
44. Sphyrapicus varius 20' ^{in lake} 26'
45. Coccyzus pinnatus 20' ^{in lake} 23' do 25' do 26' do
46. Regulus satrapa 20' ^{in lake} 25' 26' 27' 28' 30'
47. Sialia naevius 21' ^{in lake} 21'
48. Acipiter velox 21'
49. Galeoscoptes carolinensis 20'
50. Tonitrua leucophrys 23' ^{in lake} 27' 29' 30'
51. Hirundo horreorum 23' ^{in lake} 27' 29' 30'
52. Ardea herodias 27' ^{in lake} 27' 29' 30'
53. Sturnus pinus 30' ^{in lake} 30'

Philohela minor

Bethel, Maine

1904

October 18

At evening as twilight was falling Dr. Gehring heard Woodcock rising & flying from place to place in the birch woods below the house. One of them alighted in the opening in front of the house & ran & flitted from place to place along the margin of the little pond. Dr. G. saw it repeatedly jerk up & spread its tail while thus moving about. Presently another bird came flying to the pond and the first resumed to the lower opening where it uttered the hoop call a number of times. The second bird ^{was seen to answer this call once or twice} behaved much like the first but did not jerk up nor spread its tail while Dr. G. was watching it. He thinks he heard at least five or six different birds rise from this cove to night (I heard one there the following evening)

✓
Woodcock

1904

October 18

Cambridge
Mass.

Lonotrichia albertis.

Found a remarkable number of White-throats in our garden to-day, not less than 35 or 40 I should say. I was puzzled at first to conjecture what they could be eating as there are few seeds of the big Polygonum this autumn. The vines on the arbor are loaded with ripe grapes, however, and I soon noticed that the birds seemed to congregate there. Presently I saw two of them engaged in sucking the grapes. They would drive their bills to the base into the grape & keep them there for several seconds at a time moving the mandibles slightly. The grapes thus attacked were Labellas. There were also ripe Concord & Catawbas in the arbor.

Birds noted at Bethel, Maine.

1904 October 1-2 and 20-31.

1. Turdus pallasi 1² 2' 21' 23^② 27'
2. Merula migratoria 21^{hd.} 22^⑥ 27' ^{24 1/2} ^{Drum} ^{12 (30)} ¹⁵ Sun along roadside during drive from Bethel to Albany & back.
3. Siaticia sialis 1⁽¹⁵⁾ 2⁽²⁰⁾ 22^{hd.}
4. Regulus satrapa 24^{hd. (20. 21)} 29^{hd. (20. 21)} 30^②
5. Parus atricapillus 1^{hd.} 21^⑥ 22^{hd.} 23^⑥ 25^{hd.} 28^{hd.} 29^{hd.} 30^{hd.}
6. ✓ " hudsonicus 23^{hd. in woods near shore.} 29^{2 hd. in mixed woods by Jordan.} on W. side of house hill. P. atricapillus & R. satrapa with them
7. Sitta canadensis 1' 23'
8. Dendroica coronata 1⁴ 2² 22²
9. ✓ " cærulea 21^⑧
10. Zonotrichia albicollis 2^③
11. ✓ Spinus tristis 22^{hd.} 28^③ 29^{hd.} 31^{hd.}
12. Zonotrichia leucophrys 2^{1 ad.}
13. Spizella monticola 20^{hd.} 21^④ 22⁸ 23⁴ 25⁴ ^{full song} 27⁵⁰ 28^④ 29^③ 30^{hd.}
14. Spizella socialis 1⁴ 2¹⁰
15. Melospiza fasciata 22¹ ^{Shunk Hollow} ^{25 1/2} ^{Hollow} ^{Dean}
16. Junco hyemalis 1⁴ 2²⁵ 20' 22⁶ 23² 24' 25^② 27²⁰ 29^②
17. Acanthis linaria 25^{hd. twice apparently singing on wing.} 31^{2nd heard at once, apparently on wing}
18. ✓ Corvus americanus 1^③ 21^{hd.} 27^⑥
19. ✓ Otocorys alpestris 22^{hd.} 23^{hd.} 25^{hd.}
20. Sayornis phoebe 1'
21. Dryobates villosus 22' ^{in elm near house.}
22. ✓ Geothlypis trichas? 1' 2² 25' 31^④ ^{from this} ^{from house}
23. Syrnium nebulosum 25^{Parula yell followed by host, Dr. St. woods, 9 P.M.}
24. Parus carolinensis 1^{1 hd. high over Dr. St. house.}
25. ✓ Passerella iliaca 27^⑧
26. Cyanocitta cristata 21^{hd.} 23^③ ^{singing off} 29^{hd. at} ^{from this}
27. ✓ Perisoreus canadensis 25^{1 seen near Bethel race track by W. Dean} 29^{1 hd. W. side of house hill (with call notes in wing)}
28. Philohela minor 18^{2 seen singing at eve. by Dr. St.} 19^{1 heard singing} 23^{1 started}

Birds noted at Bethel, Maine

1904 October 1-2 and 20-31.

29 Cathartes pelagica 28 ¹/₂ (Dr. Schump's records)

30 Nyctala acadica . - 28 ¹/₂ heard at sunset in Dr. Schump's woods. It called three times giving each time a succession of 4 whistles (heew, heew, heew, heew). Dr. Schump has heard this same bird near his tent in the NW side of the boglet on three occasions this month.

31 Merganser americanus 28 ¹/₂ (1) 1 Mottled Merganser in water in Androscoggin R. just above Cornell Bridge. (1) flying down river

32 Colaptes auratus . 28 ¹/₂ in 8 specimens & diving in company with 5 Greenbackers in Androscoggin River above Cornell Bridge, 1 then off with Greenbackers.

33 Lanius borealis . - 29 ¹/₂ brownish bird; brown blue head.

34 Anas obscura . - 31 ¹/₂ (5) flying high over Dr. Schump's place toward night, 9 am.

Birds noted at Bethel, Maine.

1904 November. 6.

1. Parus atricapillus. 6⁽²⁾ 8⁽²⁾ 9⁽³⁾ 10⁺ 12⁽³⁾ 13⁽³⁾ 17⁽³⁾ ^{Grove Hill}
2. Regulus satrapa 6^{hd.} 8^{hd.} 11^{hd.} 12^{hd.} 17^{hd.} ^{Dr. G.}
3. Sitta canadensis 6^{hd.} 12^{hd.} 13^{hd.} ^{Glen Woods Grove Hill}
4. Bonasa u. togata 6² 8⁽²⁾ 9⁽³⁾ 12⁽²⁾ ^{Glen Woods Grove Hill Glen Woods}
5. Dryobates pubescens 7^{Dr. G.} 10⁸ 13^{Dr. G.} ^{Dr. G.'s woods}
6. Spinus tristis 8^{hd.} 9⁽⁶⁾ 10¹¹ 13⁽³²⁾ 17⁽¹⁶⁾ 20^(15 with red crest 2. Ruffs) ^{Dr. G.'s woods feeding on white birch}
7. Cyanocitta cristata 8^{Parade Hill} 9¹ 10^{hd.} 13^{hd.} ^{Dr. G.'s woods}
8. Cophoceros pileatus 9^{Dr. G.'s woods} 12^{hd.} ^{Glen Woods}
9. Tamus hyemalis 8^{Shaw's Hill} 9⁽²⁾ 12^{hd.} ^{Village of Bethel}
10. Spinella monticola 9¹
11. Acanthis linaria 9^{Parade Hill} 10⁽³⁾ 20^{Dr. G.'s house} ^{Swarm in flock composed chiefly of Goldfinches (S. G. G.)}
12. Corpodens purpureus 9^{Parade Hill} 10^{hd. in same place} 13^{Dr. G.'s woods} ^{in pasture}
13. Parus hudsonius 9^{Parade Hill} 12^{hd.} ^{Glen Woods}
14. Dryobates villosus 10¹ ^{off. orchard} ^{Parade Hill}
15. Plectrophenax nivalis, 12⁽⁶⁾ ^{flying along Androscoggin Riv.}

Birds noted at Bethel, Maine.

1904 November 6 -

16 Cornus americanus 12 ② ^{flying over Acadia}
^{then near Grand Gulf.}

17 Pinicola canadensis 13 ③ ^{20. 51 birds. in}
^{seen in} ^{loose trees too far}
^{off to note color. One notched.}

18 Nyctale acadica 13 ^{20. 84 birds.}
^{the new - new - new - new call heard}
^{over 9 a.m. Cloudy & mist.}

Concord, Mass.

1905.
April 5

Habits of
Fox Sparrows

Fox Sparrows have been abundant on the farm for the first six days. They feed much in vegetable garden behind the house (especially where millet was planted last year) when the weather is calm but whenever there is a high wind they retire to sheltered nooks in the woods. All of them go to roost every night about sunset in dense young white pines in the Purple Rock woods. They sing freely from sunrise (seldom earlier) to about eleven o'clock in the forenoon. I rarely hear them in the afternoon and not often at sunset although at the latter time they utter the rising call and the chup note a good deal. Although alert and rather shy at all times they are less subject to foolish panics than are certain others of the Sparrows (especially the Juncos). Indeed a large number of them will often feed gaily in one place for half-an-hour at a time without once taking wing. They are greatly selfish birds, quarreling and driving one another away from spots where food that they like is especially plenty.

Balls Hill, Concord, Mass.

1905

April 12

A. M. cloudy; P. M. clear. Moderate N. E. wind. A few birds rather cool day.

Awakening at daybreak I heard a heavy fluttering of wings followed by a sound as of something striking the earth. Looking out of the little window over my bed I saw almost beneath it and within ten feet of the cabin a hen Partridge which had just alighted on the ground. She stood erect & motionless for a moment and then started up the hillside moving no faster than a domestic fowl, taking short steps and winding in and out among the stems of the trees. I watched her until she was out of sight. Evidently she was unaware of my presence for she seemed entirely unalarmed.

A Partridge
alighted within
10 ft of the
cabin.

As I was standing motionless among the oaks on the hillside near east of the cabins a Carolina Dove cooed very near me. Presently I saw the bird perched on the top of the horse shed. It remained there for upwards of 20 minutes preening its feathers, occasionally working a foot step on the flat gravelled roof, now & then cooing. It seemed as much at home there as a Town Pigeon. When it cooed it bowed its head to below the level of its shoulders & puffed out its chest. It was a trim, graceful creature of eminently refined, quiet bearing indulging in no sudden or undignified movements or postures until it caught sight of me when it began ^{bobbing} jerking its head up & down and jerking its tail in the most energetic manner. Sometimes it raised its tail sharply only like a Thrush Thrush, sometimes it threw it up sharply, sometimes it depressed it like a Phoebe, over or under it moved its sideways. These Doves are very numerous here this Spring. I saw 8 together in Birch Field on the 9th. The solemn, measured cooing is over in my ears as I start

Carolina Dove
on roof of
shed

Concord, Mass.

1905.

April 14

Clear and warm with light N. to E. wind.

Arrivals:- Chippy & singing in open air at the Farm
Bittern -- & pumping near head of Great Meadows.

April 15

Spent the forenoon at the Farm planting Quakers in
Birch Field. Two Blue Jays making the bell-note call
and two Red-shouldered Hawks chasing three Fox Sparrows
behind the hedges, one singing.

As I was taking about in a corner over the Great
Meadows at evening I heard the first Bittern of the season.
He was pumping near the head of the meadow. 4 Black
Ducks passed over the meadow flying rather high towards the S.

I have heard or seen Red-bellied Nuthatches of late in
Pulpit Rock woods, in Prescott's pines, and on Davis Hill.
About 2 P.M. to-day as I was on the north slope of
Pine Hill (or Pine Ridge) near the Swamp I heard what I
took to be a black-pine tapping rather loudly. Presently I
discovered the bird which proved to be a ♂ Red-bellied Nuthatch.
It was hard at work excavating a hole in a chest white pine
about 20 ft. above the ground. The hole had been carried in so
far that as the bird worked I could see only the tip of
its tail. Every half minute or so it backed out with a
mouthful of chips which it scattered on the ground. By a
quick jerk of the head. A ♀ Nuthatch evidently its mate
was feeding among the branches of a white pine only a
few rods away. Both birds were very silent. I think
they would be intending to nest in the hole. I
believe the pair I have seen in Pulpit Rock woods will
nest there also.

Sitta Carolinensis
is working;
on north on
Pine Ridge.
Wood.

1905-
April 14
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About 5 P. M. Gilbert while standing in the cabin door saw a ♂ Sharp-shinned Hawk come skimming along the river bottom. It passed the old cabin within a few yards and alighted on a low branch not over fifteen feet from the front of Gilbert's cabin where it remained for about half a minute. Presumably, as some thing has happened at least once or twice since the cabins were built, I remember on one occasion finding the feathers of a Sparrow that had been killed by a Hawk.

Cambridge, Mass.

1908.

April 30

The chorus of Robin voices began about 4 o'clock this morning and lasted about half an hour without the slightest pause. At least five or six birds were singing near our house, and the combined volume of sound was most impressive. After 4.30 I heard only one bird at a time. Now how I heard more than one or two at evening of late the full chorus being dimly compared to the early morning hours. The birds have not begun nesting in the bleds as yet.

Robins sing
in chorus
only in
early morning
times.

A Ruby-crowned Kinglet has been singing in the garden since the 28th. I have been ^{at} hearing it every day but especially often between 8 and 10 a.m. The song of this species may be best characterized I think by the syllable "cheer". Its quality is unique in respect to delicacy and spirituality. It is more one of the more rapid of all bird songs. The bird sings pretty close by in a thicket of huckleberries.

Song of
Ruby-crowned
Kinglet

We hear a solitary Vireo sing for ten or fifteen minutes at short intervals, in the garden. Although all the notes were unusual I suspect that the bird is the same as that which has passed the last two summers here (it was the same for in the afternoon I heard it sing the other song.)

Solitary Vireo

About 9 a.m. I found a Yellow-bellied Woodpecker clinging to the trunk of the American pine in the jungle just below the cluster of holes that a bird of the same species drilled last year. I think this bird here today was a female but I did not get a good view of it.

Sapsucker

On Fitzgerald St. about 10.30, I found a Brown Auklet running up the trunk of an elm. There is a small bird which is in the habit of a flying about running to the ground then again. Heard a small Redpoll singing on Jellison's floor.

Auklet.
(Cuthbert)
Bird Chorus.

Concord, Mass.

1905.

May 3

Clear and very warm with strong S.W. wind. Ther. 44°, 79°.

Arrivals: - Catbird 1 (new), Nashville Warbler (1 silent ♂), House Wren (3 ♂♂), Black & Yellow W. 1 silent ♂, Black-throated Blue W. 1 ♂♂, Maryland Yellow-throat 1 silent ♂, Redstart 1, Water Thrush 1, Bobolink 1, Baltimore Oriole 1, Kingbird 1, Cooled Flycatcher 1, Least Flycatcher 1, Solitary Vireo 2, Spotted Sandpiper 1. Ovenbird 2.

It was a great bird day. A big wave of migrants arrived last night just in advance or, at least, on the crest of, the warm wave, as so often happens. As I was driving this morning I heard an Oriole fluting near the cabin and a little later a Bobolink in full ecstatic song across the river. Just after breakfast an Ovenbird sang on the hill. Later I heard one on the farm. A Water Thrush singing in Ball's Hill Swamp & a silent ♂ Maryland Yellowthroat near the cabin. A Ruby-crowned Kinglet thru the 7 Pottery birds together in the river path at evening, a Thrasher singing across the river. A Catbird mewing in the swamp.

At 8.30 a.m. I started for the farm. Saw a Kingbird in Benson's field & near his house a pair of Downy Woodpeckers, one of them, drawing on a resonant elm trunk. A Solitary Vireo was singing gleefully in the red oak woods behind his house.

At the Ritten place I found a pair of Tree Swallows circling about the boxes and two or more Barn Swallows entering the barn. A Chickadee was singing near the house. One of the Phoebe was sitting on the eave in the barn cellar. A Brown Thrasher & a vesper Sparrow singing across the road. A Bluebird flitting about the ploughed land. The twilight & by sunset in front of apple orchard in full bloom.

1905.

May 3
(No 2)

There were only a few birds (mostly Chippies & White-throats) near the farm house but in the woods near Pulpit Rock I found an interesting lot of fairly common migrants including a Redstart (♂), a Black & Yellow Warbler (silent ♂), a Nashville Warbler (silent ♂), a Solitary Vireo (♂), a Yellow Warbler, three House Wrens (♂♂♂), a Black-throated Green Warbler (♂), a Black-throated Blue Warbler (♂), and - most completely of all - a Great-crested Flycatcher. The last named bird flew up from a pool in the swamp where he had evidently been bathing. After shaking the water from his drabbed plumage he called a few times. Unlike most of his kind he was very tame permitting me to approach within 10 or 15 yards. I doubt if he was the bird that breeds in our orchard but he may have been. (He must have been the same for he was in the same woods on the 4 and in the orchard near the nest on the 5th.)

I found a Blue Jay's nest on the south side of Ball's Hill this morning. It was in an unusual situation, near the end of a long, heavily-foliaged, horizontal white pine branch about 20 ft. above the ground. Both birds were flitting close about it and one of them spent a minute or more in it, busily turning around & around apparently to smooth the lining. The other bird silent.

Heard two Ruby-crowned Kinglets singing and saw a third which uttered the dry, stuttering chatter. The song of this species may be characterized as brilliant yet ethereal or spiritual, exceedingly rapid yet smooth & flowing. It is sometimes loud and ringing, sometimes softer and more subdued.

1908.

May 3

1883

Noted the Spring flight call of the Lark as to see, lee-
dee. It is usually given just as the bird takes flight
but also when it is fairly on wing and occasionally
just before it leaves its perch. I think it is peculiar
to the S. I seldom or never hear it in later summer or
autumn.

Shortly after sunset as I was standing in front
of the cabin the wind which had been blowing violently
from the S. W. and the afternoon changed suddenly to
E. & the temperature fell rapidly. A few moments
later. A few moments later great numbers of Swallows
appeared coming from the N. E. at a considerable height
and dropping on their wings under the lee side of the
cabin, afterwards drifting off out of sight over the meadows.
I would have seen 300 or 400 in the course of a few
minutes. Their flight was so peculiar that I could not
identify them by sight. They used their wings but little
merely waving or flicking as they drifted before the wind.
Judging by their calls the majority were Barn Swallows
but I also heard the notes of House & Tree Swallows.
There was no sight among them but I saw four
Swifts flying in company over the bird cabin in
the day.

Remarked
flight of
Swallows
at evening

In a ditch in Bassett meadow saw a ♂ Spotted Toad
pursuing a ♀ with anxious intent under water. He clasped her
once but lost his hold. She then dove to the bottom & buried
herself in the mud. The ♂ sought her persistently but vainly.
Every minute or so he raised his head above the surface for air
gasping with much open mouth. Yet the ♀ remained submerged
at the bottom during the 15 minutes I kept watch.

1905

May 4

Morning cloudy & misty; afternoon brilliantly clear.
Cool N. E. wind all day.

Birds: Wilson's Thrush (1. silent. bird - alone); Yellow Warbler
(2. silent, Ball's Hill); Chestnut-sided Warbler (2. silent ♂♂, Ball's Hill);
Rose-breasted Grosbeak (silent ♂ at farm); Whippoorwill (♂ & ♀ on
W. Red. Elm off. Ball's Hill at evening) Carolina Rail 1x at evening.
Green Heron (1 off. Ball's Hill)

There were only a few small birds at Ball's Hill to-day
most of them along its southern slope near the water where
they feed better than the other ♂. birds. When I went
to the farm in the afternoon I found cotton wood trees
thousands were singing loudly wherever I went to-day.
I heard a Canada Junco sitting in Pinus trees.
It is probable I think that most of the birds
started to-day for the first time were here yesterday also.

At evening I walked along the river path to
Ball's Hill & beyond. As I was watching a muskrat
crossing the calm river a Whippoorwill began singing in
the woods on the W. Redford side of the meadow. At
the same instant two Swifts & perhaps more rose
from the marsh flying heavily and going off towards
the north as I would tell by the sound of their wings.
Still later a Carolina Rail called crie a few times.
There was a Green Heron flying about the river
opposite the hill all day. In the forenoon I saw
a ♂ Wood Hawk & in the afternoon a ♀. Both
passed the hill on the opposite side of the river leaving
the marsh cloudy.

Evening
walk.

1905-

May 4
Mar 21

We have been feeding the Song Sparrows in front
of the cabin with hemp seed & corn or two on them
most of the time. There were two together this morning.
As I was watching them a ♀ Robin approached them
gathering strands of dry grass for her nest. Suddenly
one of the Sparrows attacked her with a vindictiveness
that I have rarely seen equalled. He flew straight at
her and seized her throat holding in his bill downing
her like a little bull dog. This was repeated three times
the Robin resisting without much spirit, however, &
flying further & further away after each onslaught.
After the third repeated assault the Sparrow returned
and began with feeding again.

2 procreans

Song Sparrow

1905.
May 5

Clear wind E. in a.m., S. W. in P. M. Heavy haze from this morning.
Ther 33° 64°.

Arrivals Yellow-throated Vain (1 & H. Red. off. Ball's Hill, 7 a.m.);
Scarlet Tanager silent (♂ at foam in blossoming plum then at moss);
Wood Thrush (♂ in full song in Barret Run at foam about dawn.
It sang like the bird there was there last summer).

Despite the remarkably cold weather & the equally remarkably
barren condition of vegetation the May birds are doing
very right and most of them considerably in advance of their
usual dates. They are coming scattering, however, and there has
been no real rush since the 3rd. Besides the new ones noted
above there was a wonderful increase to-day in the numbers
of Redbreast Robins, Yellow Robins, Redstarts, Maryland Yellow throats
& Grackles.

At 8 a.m. saw a pair of Downy Woodpeckers in young oaks
behind Ball's Hill showing very strongly. They kept flying from
tree to tree flapping their wings slowly & feebly like butterflies,
sometimes moving on a level plane sometimes in long curves,
occasionally sailing from tree to tree in a long deep arch.
Their wings had a strong fire-like appearance dry, probably, to
the way they were held or flapped. They both uttered a low
hoarse chucking cry about incessantly. As I think this was a
low performance but they were ♂ & ♀ & both "Hatched off" in
the same way. Both kept down, also.

At 8.30 a.m. as I was near the Barret spring I heard
twice & perfectly distinctly the long quivering cough of a Raven.
The bird was apparently flying north over Point Field.

Concord, Mass.

1905.

May 10

Clear and cool with high W. wind.

I was absent from Concord to-day but Mr. Horbach
watched the birds closely. He reports a large flock of migrants
on Bow's Hill. Most of them were Yellow-crowned Cuckoos
but he also saw a pair of Black-throated Green Warblers
and a few Wilson's Black-caps.

1905.

May 12

Morning cloudy and calm with fine misty rain. Afternoon clear with light N. E. wind.

Arrivals: - Golden-winged Warbler 1st, in orchard at farm; Lincoln's Finch, 1 in milllet patch at farm, 1 in road just north of Mansur's house; Black-bird Cuckoo, 1st at Ross's Hill, 1 at farm; Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 1 (silent) at farm.

Saw two male Rose-breasted Grosbeaks escorting a female from tree to tree in an apple orchard. All three birds were silent. The males showed us rivalry or jealousy of one another. Walter Dean tells me that he saw a similar thing in the garden in Cambridge the other day but his male birds were displaying their plumage most vigorously as they flattered about the female & they also had a singing contest.

A Grosbeak in the woods near Pulpit Rock this morning was giving the autumn note at short intervals and another bird was answering in the same way. I noted this call on two spots then: "Hew-e, hew-e" a rather sad note resembling somewhat the autumn call of the Redstart."

The Bateman when on wing at a distance may be distinguished from the Night Hawk by its smaller wing bats, its longer slender shape, & by the more pronounced arch of the back.

Bateman

There were 4 Bats in the shed at the farm on May 4th (there were none on the 2nd), 6 on the 5th, 9 on the 12th.
Annals of Bats at farm.

1905.

May 12

(No 2)

As I was following the cart path over Pine Ridge this morning a Carolina Dove fluttered out of some dense white pines within a few yards of me, simulating the actions of a badly wounded bird. Alighting in a pine I began uttering a succession of simple, uniform coos very like those of a town Pigeon. Seven or eight of these notes were given in succession at short, regular intervals. As I approached the bird it again took wing fluttering out into an open field occasionally along the ground, it cooing (the single, uniform coo) as it flew. It must have had young in the pines but I searched for them in vain. I have often heard a nesting Dove behave like this but never before have I heard any Carolina Dove coo as this one did.

Carolina
Dove with
young

Concord, Mass.

1905.

May 14

Cloudy and calm with showers of fine misty rain in P.M.
Rather warm wind light from S.W. in A.M. No wind in P.M.

Arrivals: The only birds noted for the first time were
the Black-bellied Woodpecker, 3 seen by F. on Balls Hill, and
Canadian Woodpecker 2 ♂♂ found by me at the base of Davis Hill.
There was, however, a sudden and very great increase in the
numbers of Cote birds and Down birds. Of the latter I heard
fully 25 notes flying between Balls Hill & the farm.

The apple trees at the farm are in full bloom to-day.
In one of them we found a party of 5 Cedar Birds (these, by
the way, are also new to my season's list here) all of which were
busily engaged in picking off and devouring the petals of the
blossoms. I watched them at close range (about 20 ft) for
fully 15 minutes. During this time each bird must have
eaten a dozen or more petals. These were sometimes swallowed
whole (not without some difficulty), sometimes torn into halves
before being swallowed. As the birds remained nearly motionless
the whole time, simply bending down & holding the petals
within easy reach without showing any apparent alarm
I was convinced that they were eating only the petals &
not selecting those that may have had insects on them.
This habit of the Cedar Bird (if it is really a bird) is quite
new to me.

Cedar birds
eating petals
of apple
blossoms.

To my great delight I found that a pair of House
Sparrows have begun a nest in the little barn attached
to the Mangrove at the farm. I saw both birds & one of them
was picking up straw & holding them in its beak as I was
watching. I also saw two birds enter the nest in the barn
last evening I saw a pair in Mangrove barn.

1905.

May 14

(222)

In the afternoon I paddled up river as far as Red Bridge with Geo. V. Barrett. Red-wings and Bobolinks appeared to be fully up to their normal numbers in the meadows along this stretch of river. There were also as many Spotted Sandpeps as usual but on birds only one Solitary. There were plenty of Barn Swallows, a few House Swallows, a pair of Junco Swallows, & a pair of Mountain Warblers. I have not noted a single Song Sparrow as yet & I fear there are none in this part of Canada this year.

Chimney Swifts have been very scarce up to yesterday afternoon when I counted 25 in one flock coming about Bon's Mill. Flocks tell me he does about as many there to-day. I had only found up the river (at Faint's Bridge).

Coveau, Mass.

1905.

May 15

Cloudy with light showers. Wind N.E. in P.M. Rather warm.

The country was better supplied with birds to-day than on any previous date this season but they were very generally distributed or is usually the case when the weather is calm & cloudy. At Ball's Hill there were several Yellow-rumps, a Magnolia Warbler, a Canadian Warbler & a Wilson's Black-cop. At the farm in the apple orchard, where the blossoms had already begun to cover the ground with their fallen petals (especially after the rain began falling) I found a considerable number & variety of birds. There were two Nashville's, a Golden-wing, two House Wren, a Black-bell, a Black-throated Green, a Black-burnian, two of Black & Yellow, two Canadian Warblers, and a Wilson's Black-cop. Besides the various Yellow-rumps & Robins. All these birds spent much of their time hovering for insects among the fading clusters of apple blossoms, also flying to the oak in the neighborhood at intervals.

Yesterday I saw a Chickadee near the farm house with a big tuft of wool in its beak. To-day I followed it to its nest which is in a hole in the under side of a dead snag of an elm directly over the door yard and fully 50 feet above the ground. I saw the bird enter the hole with a piece of wool & emerge without it. I have never before known a Chickadee to nest so high.

The bird has been visiting much of late. The hole is near the end of the snag & is a round, fluted hole.

The birds in the field were in numbers. There were ten yesterday and fourteen to-day. The city was very 12

late.

1905-

May 16

Cloudy with N. E. wind and light rain at frequent intervals, cooler.

A big Warbler day; in fact I have seen nothing like it since the memorable flight of When I awoke this morning I imagined for a moment that I was in the Maine woods, for the songs of such Warblers as the Bay-Breast, Magnolia, Yellow-rump, Black-throated Blue, Black-burnian, House Black-poll, Wilson's Black-cap, Canadian, and Water Thrush came to my ears from every side of the cabin. There were at least fifty small migrants humming the side of the fire, as I found when I came down to breakfast. Besides the species just mentioned I found among them a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, a few American Thrushes; also a rather curiously colored Golden-winged Warbler, probably a female. There were also several of the common local birds such as Towhees, Grosbeaks, Cat-birds, a Thrasher etc.

Water. I found in Davis Swamp behind Beacon's a number of birds containing chiefly, House Wren, Canada Wren, Redstart, Yellow Warbler, a Black-brown and a Lincoln's Finch. The last named bird was among the cabbages on wet ground & was unusually tame & pliable. I had a few pairs of it at close range.

Birds - Field & Pulpit Rock woods appeared mostly
lively but there were numbers of warblers in the
apple orchard and houses of them in Bannock Run. When
I finally believe the total number must have exceeded
200. Unica & Canadian warblers predominated. There
were two Black caps, a ♂ Gray - breasted in full song, a
Blue-browed, at least 4 Black & Yellow etc. I saw
a Gray checkered Thrush on the ground in the very doorway
of the old house.

1908.

May 16
(Wed)

Returning via Howe's meadows I found a number of birds in the woods at the base of Holden's Hill. I saw here 4 ♂♂ and 2 ♀♀ Towhees flexibly together among ~~low~~ bushes at the edge of these woods.

It was interesting to note that while the migrants were collected in large numbers in a few restricted places on local birds (some, in some cases, of the same species), were scattered about and along their usual haunts, chiefly in the low coast wind. Most of the birds kept close down by the water, gave the water a good look in the tops of the oaks.

1905.
May 17

Cloudy with strong cold N. E. wind.

Returning from Cambridge (where I spent last night) by the morning train I crossed the river at Ball's Field and walked through the woods to the farm. I was out again, most of the afternoon, with D. C. F. Leach, in the woods on the farm. Although north-bound migrants seemed less numerous than they were yesterday they were nevertheless abundant especially in flocks sheltered from the wind. I saw nothing of special interest, however. The bulk of the flight seemed to be composed of common birds such as Redstarts, Common Waxwings, Oven Birds, Black & White Cuckoos etc.

There were only a few Swallows on the marshes yesterday & to-day although the weather has been of just that kind which usually induces them to congregate there.

1905.

May 18

Forenoon cloudy; afternoon clear and calm up to five o'clock after which it rained heavily until nine o'clock or later. Decidedly warmer especially in the early part of the afternoon.

I was out all day in company with D. C. Funch. We spent the forenoon rambling slowly towards Ball's Hill by way of Prescott's River and Davis Hill reaching the cabin about noon and dining there. About 2 P.M. we started up river in a boat. Landed at Dotkin's Hill and spent an hour or more there. Returning to the cabin we walked slowly back to the farm by way of Holden's Hill where we spent an hour or so.

I do not think that I have ever seen a heavier flight of small north-bound migrants than that noted to-day. Although so generally and evenly distributed that no one piece of woods or thicket seemed especially favored they were nearly everywhere as numerous as I found them in the Bassett Run at the farm two days ago. Indeed the entire region between the farm and Ball's Hill seemed to be occupied by one continuous flock and practically every tree top had at least one bird on, often, than a pair. Most of these birds were Warblers. Especially numerous were House Wrenblers, Redstarts, Oven Birds and Canadian Warblers. There were also many Mockers & Black & Yellow Warblers, Yellow Black Caps & Yellow Thrushes.

Hummers (chiefly Olive-backed) were common. The most interesting species noted was the Bay-breasted Warbler of which we saw two males. In Holden's Hill woods we found a flock of eight Song Sparrows, six males and two females. They kept close together & as a rule were on the ground.

1905.

May 21

Clear and cool with high N. W. wind. My registering thermometer fell to 39° last night and the same day the ground was white with hoar frost early this morning.

Arrivals: Cape May Warbler, 8; Alder Flycatcher, 1; Night hawk, 1.

The country continues flooded with northern migrants many of which, I think, have been here (individually I mean) since the 16th. Although a certain proportion have evidently arrived and a certain other proportion departed) within the past two or three days. The shifting of species has been less marked than that in the relative number of individuals of the various species and that wave is not very pronounced. The harsh wind of to day, like that of the 16th, caused the birds to congregate in sheltered places. There was a small mixed flock on the slope of the hill below the barn at the farm, another on the lane to Benson's, a large one in the wooded run near Pulpit Rock, a still larger one along the eastern base of Davis Hill, a smaller one on the north slope of Boss Hill, a very large and interesting assemblage in the oak scrub on the Blackman Hills with the river and a small gathering in the flow woods north of Halden's Hill. Most of the birds seen in these places were evidently north-bound migrants although some of them belonged to species which breed here. The weather, unusually early, did not seem to affect our summer resident birds (excepting possibly the Towhees) for they were found scattered about everywhere in about their usual summer numbers.

I made no census of the birds seen on the farm & in its woods but then went with in some of the other places were counted as accurately as possible and noted on the spot the birds seen as follows:

1905.

May 21

(No 2)

Noted at Davis Hill, chiefly in the fringe of forests bordering the river bank: - Swainson's Thrush 1, Catbird 2, Chickadee 2, Chestnut-sided Warbler 8, Maryland Yellow-throat 4881 ♀, Hutton's Thrush 6, Canadian Warbler 6882 ♀♀, Wilson's Black-cap 8882 ♀♀, Redstart 188 ♀♀, Yellow-throated Vireo 18x, White-throated Sparrows 1 pair seen, Song Sparrows 1, Lincoln's Finch 1, Swamp Sparrows 1, Kingbird 1, Wood Pewee 1, Alder Flycatcher 1

Noted at Basin Hill, chiefly low down on its southern slope and in the brush along the river path: - Wilson's Thrush 1, Swainson's Thrush 2, Catbird 4, Black & white Cuckoo ♀, House Wren 288, Chestnut-sided Warbler 18, Yellow-rump Warbler 8x ♀, Black-poll W. 18, Black & Yellow Warbler 182 ♀♀, Black-throated Green Warbler 288, Maryland Yellow-throat 2881 ♀, Ovenbird 18x, House Finch 2, Canadian Warbler 2881 ♀, Wilson's Black-cap, (388), Redstart, 2nd 881 ♀ again, Bank Swallow 10 or 12, Song Sparrows 3 (1x), Swamp Sparrows 1x, Kingbird 2, Phoebe 1, Golden Robin (89).

Noted on the Blackstone Hills, chiefly in the oak scrub bordering the river path. Catbird (3), Black & white Cuckoo 18x, Nashville Warbler 18, House Wren 181 ♀, Yellow-rump 2881 ♀, Cape May Warbler 18, Black-throated Warbler 18x, Black-throated Green Warbler 8 ♀, Black-throated Blue Warbler 1 ♀, Chestnut-sided Warbler 2881 ♀, Black & Yellow Warbler 18, Maryland Yellow-throat 182 ♀♀, Canadian Warbler 4881 ♀, Redstart 288, Scarlet Tanager 288, Lincoln's Finch 1.

Noted at Hodges Hill in the flat woods bordering Bonnett Mountain. Black-poll Warbler 18, Yellow-rump 2 ♀♀, Ovenbird 1x, Maryland Yellow-throat 2 ♀♀, Redstart 288, Canadian Warbler 488, Yellow-thr. Vireo 1x, Song Sparrows 1x, Crow 1, Downy W. 1.

1905.

May 21
(he 3)

The Cape May Warbler noted to-day was first seen in a young swamp white oak (about 25 ft. high) on the edge of the Marsh meadow in company with a ♂ Black-burnian, a ♂ Magnolia Warbler & a Nashville Warbler. Just across the road in which I was standing the oak woods on the hillside were alive with various kinds of Warblers most of which were evidently winter-born migrants. The Cape May was under my glass for fully 15 minutes & not over 30 ft. from me. He was rather dull-colored for a Spring ♂. He spent most of this time in the top of the oak feeding among the tasselled blossoms with his sharp, slender bill. His movements were comparatively (ie for a Warbler) slow and deliberate and very like those of a Black-poll. Viewed from beneath he might easily have been taken for a Magnolia Warbler. He made no sound of any kind. After a time his companions joined the bulk of the flock on the hillside but he remained alone in the oak for five minutes or more after they had left being finally following them, however.

I saw no less than four different Lincoln's Finches this morning. The first was feeding in the millet patch in front of the old barn. He flew to a bush given some work when I left him. Less than two minutes later I started another (certainly a different bird) from the ground at the foot of the raspberry patch. He also took to a bush. The third I found in the bushes on the river bank at Davis Hill and the fourth in a precisely similar place on the edge of the near a better west of Benson's Knoll. All four birds were silent & seemed rather than wary. I saw them all through my glass only a few yards away & identified every one of them absolutely. The two old ones were only together in the millet patch just before noon.

1905.
May 22

Clear with high cool W. wind. Ther. fell to 40° last night & there was a heavy hoar frost this morning.

Some of the north bound migrants here yesterday evidently continued their journey last night but a great many apparently postponed it. The following lists made in working the same places as yesterday justify both inferences.

Noted at Davis Hill, chiefly near the river - Robin 3, Wilson's Thrush 1, Black & White Creeper 1x, House Wren 1x, Pine Wren 1x, Black-hooded Warbler 2x, Bay Breasted Warbler 1x (singing in big pine), Chestnut-sided Warbler 1x, Black & Yellow Warbler 3x, Black-burnian Warbler 3x, Maryland Yellowthroat 2♂♂, Cow Bird 1x, Water Thrush 2(1x), Canadian Warbler 3♂♂, Wilson's Black-cop 1♂x, Redstart 2 ad ♂♂ 1 p. juv, Red eye birds 1x, Swamp Sparrow 3, Lincoln's Finch 1 (in exactly the same place as yesterday), Rose-breasted Grosbeak 2x, Blue Jay 1, Wood Pewee 1x, Flicker 1.

Noted at Ball's Hill, chiefly in the deep hollow by the little pond & on the steep slope of the hill. (The west wind blew on the river from to day, Robin 4(2x) nest with large young, Veery 2(1x), Swainson's Thrush 4(2x) at frequent intervals 10-12.30 a.m.), Cat Bird 4(3x), Chickadee (2), Black & white Creeper 2x, Nashville Warbler 3x, House Wren 2x, Black & Yellow Warbler 5-2♂♂, Chestnut-sided Warbler 1♂x, Black-throated Green Warbler 4♂♂ 1♀, Black-throated Blue Warbler 2x, Yellow-rump Warbler ♀, Black-hood Warbler 3, Blackburnian Warbler 3x, Maryland Yellow-throat 2♂♂ 1♀, Cow Bird 5, Water Thrush 2, Redstart 5 ad ♂♂ 2 p. juv, Canadian Warbler 4♂♂, Wilson's Black cop 2♀, Song Sparrow (2), White-throated Sparrow 1 in, Rose-breasted Grosbeak (2), Crow 2, Blue Jay 1, Cow Bird hd., Red wing hd., Phoebe 2 ad birds.

1905,
May 22
(hs 2)

Early yesterday afternoon and again to-day at nearly the same hour I heard a night hawk peeping in the oaks behind the barn. It was unquestionably perched on one of the branches of these large trees but I looked for it in vain. The weather was clear on both occasions. The bird hoped for no better things at these intervals.

On the morning of the 19th I found two housewren Water Thrushes among some bushes that border a stone wall on the hillside just below our barn and at noon to-day I started one in the flower garden behind the farm house. It is very unusual for them to frequent such elevated, dry places at this season, at least in this neighborhood.

Swainson's Thrushes are unusually numerous here this spring. Two in the deep hollows behind Barr's Hill were singing and calling much of the forenoon. Two others were calling in Birch Field - a favorite haunt of theirs. I noted their calls thus Whip, whip, whip - co-co and peep, peep the latter being apparently a variation of the whip note. The song is well-nigh impossible to render but I noted it whew - co-co - co-co

Saw several Black-throated Green Warblers to-day in low bushes and two or three hopping about on the ground in company with Maryland Yellow-Throats. This hopping, I believe, only being a gesture & when the weather is exceptionally cool.

Tanagers are frequenting open places & keeping low down this cool weather. I saw a pair on the ground in a plum orchard field yesterday & again to-day. They are exceedingly tame, also.

1905.

May 22
(No 3)

The song of the Canadian Warbler may be best described as an interrupted or stuttering warble very sweet and pleasing if not eminently melodic. It is usually preceded by a harsher tut, tut as if the bird were clearing its throat.

Wilson's Black-Cap is a most interesting little bird very like the Canadian Warbler in general behavior but fussier and more animated. It feeds chiefly among low bushes (especially willows) near water and is incessantly in motion. It is much given to nodding about, abrupt upward flights to seize insects from the under sides of the leaves. It gives its tail upward very few seconds and also waves it from side to side much after the manner of a Gnatcatcher.

It frequently darts out after flying insects and not infrequently descends to the ground to search for food among the fallen leaves. When on the ground it hops about busily & often flutters its wings. Its song is variable. Sometimes it recalls a Marsh-wren Warbler, sometimes a Water Thrush.

The Partridge often unconscious of observation and wandering through the woods in search of food often makes a keeving sound of alarm among the dry leaves.

I heard one to-day just over the crest of a little knoll and felt sure that some creature at least as big as a Fox must be coming very near. Starting to the crest of the knoll I found a cock Partridge.

A hen Partridge has been sitting on nine eggs for a week or more in the brush behind Ball's Hill. The nest is raised a foot or more above the ground among the stems of a cluster of alders. One road runs within ten feet of it. At first the bird flew every time we approached & at 2 o'clock noon. Now she allows us to pass provided we make no stop.

1905.

May 22
(No 4)

Of the Hylodidae the Gray-chinked Thrush is the most dignified and graceful and the kinest the least so. The latter bird has two habits which impress one as somewhat vulgar viz. that of clucking and that of throwing up his tail. The Gray-chink is the real aristocrat of an exuberant family. His silent reserve goes well with his unconscious grace of movement and firm, proud bearing. Some of his poses, especially when he is on the ground, are strikingly pigeon-like. He is never awkward and no shyer than before a bird who evidently prefers not to be rudely stared at by man carrying opera glasses. I have been seeing much of him here of late especially in the woods below the house. Last evening I watched a bird feeding in the pines. He moved very lightly along the knobby ground by a succession of long springy bounds very easy & graceful. As twilight was falling he called twice.

The Black-throated Blue Warblers are Bosc's Hill to-day were in oak scrub. They kept very near the ground flitting and hopping among the stems of the shrub trees. Their movements were slow & less animated than those of most of the other warblers, yet not sluggish & heavy as are those of the Black-poll & Bay Breast. They resembled their kin most with birds. The male carried his tail high & the tips of the wings curved. He sang freely
E, E, E-eee.

1905

May 23

Clear with strong, chill N. E. wind. Warmest night the minimum register being 48°. Maximum to-day 68°.

The flock of north-bound migrants also but slowly. It is evident that numbers of them pass on their way every night (at least the past two nights) but their plans are nearly made good by warm arrivals. At least this is the inference I get from the close watch that I have been keeping on the woods in this neighborhood the past ten or four days. Although I noted as was before this evening the presence of the big flock in the Barren woods had evidently changed somewhat since yesterday. Thus there were more Black and Yellow Warblers, fewer Canadian Woodpeckers and almost no House Wrenblers and Redwing Woodpeckers. The Redstarts, Black-burnians and Olive-backed Thrushes remained about the same and I saw the same number of Bay-Breasted (ie two in the Barren woods. I spent the entire morning in the Barren Run, in the old oak woods between this run and Thomas's Cove, and in the pine woods north of Pulpit Rock also visiting Birch Field and Rooster's Pines. Despite the chill and rather strong N. E. wind the birds were very generously distributed and apparently in the best of spirits for very long winging. I thought I saw a ~~House~~ Wrenbler in the top of a tall oak but could not make sure.

About 8 o'clock on the night of the 14th as it was raining heavily I heard the crying calls of warblers passing overhead and on the previous night (17th) when it was cloudy but not rainy I heard one such call. This establishes the fact that even on these apparently unfavorable nights migration was in progress.

1905
May 23
(No 2)

Our birds have been very numerous the past few days. Some of them seem to be migrating, others settled & preparing to breed. I frequently come upon mated pairs in dense woods flitting close to the ground, giving their wings and making a low chirping twittering te-te-te-te-te-te-te-te audible only a few yards away and suggesting the cry of a very young bird. They also use the common tsup note a good deal but they are singing only a very little now.

A Great Flycatcher's nest, found yesterday by Gilbert in the orchard behind our farm house, is in a most unusual position; about seven feet above the ground, within eight inches of the extremity of a slender, drooping branch of an apple tree. The branch extends out apart from any others and the nest is supported partly by it but also by a cluster of loose twigs the branch at this point being some thicker than a lead pencil. The nest is a large one & chiefly composed of whitish fibre and is not as yet covered by any foliage. Indeed it is a most conspicuous object from every side. I saw the bird go to it twice to-day. When Gilbert found it an Orchard Wren was sitting at it & the Flycatcher was trying to drive her away.

May 2nd on following page

1905.

June 6

N.E. rain storm.

As Mr. & Mrs. C. F. Batchelder and I were in the A. Cross wood shed at the farm about 11 a.m. we heard the agonised Cawing off or screams of a young Robin immediately followed by a hubbub of Robin of mingled bird voices. Rushing out we at once traced the sounds to the top of the tall elm that stands in front of the barn. It was fairly alive with birds of various kinds - Robins, Bluebirds, two Phoebe, a Crested Flycatcher, Chipping etc. They were fluttering about in the greatest excitement and in their midst, greatly excited, apparently, was a large Gray Squirrel which, at first, we supposed to be the cause of the disturbance. Presently, however, a Crow emerged from a cluster of dense foliage in the very middle of the throng and flew off bearing, clutched in one of its feet, a young Robin apparently nearly fully grown & fluttering its little wings feebly as it dangled beneath the claws of the Crow. The

latter bird was followed for one hundred yards or more by the mob of smaller birds but they soon gave up the chase and stopped back in silence. It is unusual for Crows to overtake & seize their own but I have a pair of them taking in circles low over the orchard near the barn a small or so ago. Occasionally one would alight in an apple tree for a moment. They were evidently looking for birds nests & the Robins were greatly distressed at the presence.

see previous page for page 6

1905

May 24

Clear with fresh S. W. wind. Ther. fell to 38° last night and there was a heavy haze from this morning but the day was the warmest we have had for some time (max. temp. 76°)

The big Winter flight is practically over. It lasted a full week. To-day only a few northern birds were left at all in the woods on the farm. I saw on hand 4 Black & Yellow Warblers, 2 Canadian Warblers, 1 House W., a fine ♂ Bay-Breast, one ♂ Black-Poll, 3 ♂ Black-burnians, 2 Swainson's Thrushes. The Dove birds, Black-throated Greys, Chestnut-sideds, Crows and Nuthatches Warblers were apparently down to their normal summer numbers but there were evidently more Redstarts than before here.

Early this morning I saw the first White-crowned Sparrow that I have noted in Concord since 1900. It was a beautiful adult and very tame allowing me to approach it within a few yards as it sat gently on the old wall at the east end of the dog yard. About sunset I found it feeding on the ground within a yard of the kitchen door step. It flew to the back yard where it remained until I entered the house.

As twilight was falling this evening a Tanager sang in the air over the orchard & nearly over where I was standing. It was so dark that I could not see the bird but I am sure it was on wing & at a height of at least 100 feet. It gave the warning for a bee warning followed it by two chip-chives. I think I have known the Tanager to sing on wing before but I do not know that I have ever heard one sing so late. It did not look at my watch but the time was about 8 P.M.

I caught song
of Tanager

1905.

June 6

(No 2)

For several weeks past I have heard a Solitary bird singing in the swamp west of Davis Hill. I found its nest this afternoon on Pine Ridge. As I was passing along the crest of the ridge, following a cut path, a small bird darted from a spray of foliage near the extremity of a drooping branch of a white pine just above the level of my head (about 7 feet above the ground) and flew a few feet to one side of my face.

Immediately after alighting it began singing & I found it was a Solitary bender. The note consisted of two notes, the first & both birds began with a low holding chatter. I saw the nest almost as soon as I began looking for it and drawing it down a little by the tip of the branch found that it contained four eggs, which looked quite fresh. The nest was less ornate than usual & indeed, almost exactly like that of a Red-eye. The eggs, also, resembled those of the Red-eye, having only a few faint spots. This is the first Solitary's nest that I have found in this neighborhood for several years past.

1905

June 6

(No 3/)

On May 11th Gilbert found the nest of a
Ruffed Grouse in the swamp behind Bailey Hill. It
was raised merely a foot above the ground among the
stems of a circled cluster of older spruce, ^{these stems}
within about 5 feet of a cone path. Gilbert saw that
the nest was well-filled with eggs but he did not
count them. The next day I examined the nest &
found that there were nine (9) eggs. The bird laid
no more. For several days she invariably flew from
the nest whenever any one approached it either on
foot or in a wagon usually rising when the intruder
was fully 25 yards distant; but by degrees she
became accustomed to the frequent passing and
would permit us to within walk or drive past her
without moving. On one occasion I took six people
by her in a line, continuing them all to keep moving.
The last, a lady, stopped for an instant to get a
better view of the bird who at once took wing.
We visited the nest daily during the latter part
of May, but never disturbed the bird. When I
passed it on the afternoon of June 3rd she
was sitting quietly. On June 5th Mr. E. H. Fisk
found the old bird leading her brood of young through
the bushes very near the nest. All the eggs had hatched,
probably on this date although the nest was not
visited by any of us on the 4th.

One singular fact about this nest is that no
Partridge has descended within hearing of the spot.
This spring. As I was living at the cabin the first
two weeks of May I can assure this positively. Yet I
often observed a Cackling Grouse or even the hen before
she began sitting & saw where she nested.

Covead, Mass.

1905.
June 8

Hummingbird's
nest.

As I was standing in front of the barn at the Ritchie place about half past five this afternoon a ♀ Hummingbird passed over flying only a few feet above the ground in long, easy undulations. On reaching a low spreading isolated apple tree that grows on the crest of the hill in open, cultivated ground she made an abrupt upward turn and disappeared among the foliage. If I am not mistaken she turned not only upward but also doubled back on her course for she seemed to have passed completely under the tree before she changed her course. I have seen this done before & I at once suspected a nest which I quickly found, boddled on the drooping twig of the tree about 7 feet above the ground. The bird flew from it when I was still ten yards away and when I got under it she darted about very hard coming within three or four feet of my face and making a loud angry buzzing with her wings which sounded exactly like that of an enraged Bumble Bee. There were two eggs which looked as if they were rather far advanced in incubation. There were a pair of Hummers about the farm house in May but I have seen none there of late. The last bird I saw was a ♀ feeding among the blossoms of a horse chestnut at the Ritchie place.

Concord, Mass.

1905.

June 14

7th or the last three evenings I have heard about
a sound that I cannot identify but that I
heard last year about this time in the same place
- the cotton oak woods just across the road from one
farm house. This sound is unlike any other that I
know although it suggests the bottom call of the dove
and also a man whistling for a dog. One day, being,
an Irish timer, noticed it at once this evening as he
was going out a dog in the parlor and rushed to the
open window with pistol case grasping a bottle. This, too,
despite the fact that the previous call was half drowned
in a waddy of voices of the Garden Lark, the Wood
and Pilchard. Mylar took down from the down march.
The strange cry was a rather low quai-quai-quai-
quai-quai (5 or 6 to 8 or 10 notes) & was repeated only
for a 2nd time at long irregular intervals although
we heard it a dozen times or more on the 12th.
All three evenings were damp and still & on the
12th & 13th there had been heavy rains. These brought
out the Birds & Mylar in great numbers & caused
them to renew their early spring concerts with
full vigor. I suspect that the strange call must
come from some Borealis but the creature does
not utter it with the persistence of most
animals of this class. It is strange that I should
have heard it two years in the same place & each
year should have heard but one call. I wonder
if he is not Albert Meyer "ghost". His description
of the creature he heard at Mendon is very like this.

Another
"Mystery"

Gilbert saw a Woodcock in the garden campy & heard

1905
June 15

Visited the Hummingbirds' nest at the Rietini place this evening. The ♀ flew from it when I was about twenty yards distant. She did not return nor hover about when I was examining the nest. The eggs were incubated but very dark colored.

Hummingbird
nest.

There are apparently ~~four~~ pairs of Swifts established on this place. One pair occupy a chimney in the Bungalow, there are two pairs in the chimneys of the old house and one pair in the lowest chimney of the Rietini house. I saw one of the latter named birds drop into the chimney this evening carrying a short twig held crossways in its bill. A dead bird was found in one of the chambers of this house a few days ago. One came down the back floor of the front house last evening & fastened against the fire screen for some time. When I let it out into the room it flew feebly about for a few seconds and then fastened down to the floor when it lay with outstretched wings. I caught it and observing very soon up the floor toward it when it mounted upward & judging by the bend of its wings, flew straight out of the chimney. It is pleasant to hear the hum of Swifts wings & afterwards their voices twittering as they drop into our chimney when we are at the house upon evening. I saw five together to-night cawing just over the tops of our chim.

Swifts

1905

Jan 17

Intense, hot with light S.W. wind.

About noon to-day I saw a Phoebe bathing in a small pond in the Berry Pasture. It flew from a dead branch about 15 feet from the pond and alighted upon the ground striking the surface with its breast & with such force as to make a cotton loud sound as well as to send heavy ripples rolling to every part of the pond. This action was repeated three times at short intervals. There can be no question that the bird was bathing & not picking up floating insects for each time it returned to its perch I could see that it was dripping wet. After fluffing its plumage from most of the water by a vigorous shake or two it would preen its feathers for a few moments and then take another dip.

Phoebe's
method of
bathing.

The mysterious creature in the little marsh just across the road from the farm house has called once or twice (not more than twice) every evening since the 14th. Always about eight o'clock and always when the Toads were also clamoring. I heard him only a few minutes ago while writing the above notes on the Phoebe. On this occasion his calling reminded me a little of that of the Glaucochlamys that I used to hear at Copers, Trinidad. The rapid, even vibration was similar, & the quality of the note not unlike that of Glaucochlamys but there was only feel or dip notes instead of a long series of them.

Concord, Mass.

1905.

June.

Summer Residents of our Place.

The following list includes only species which I noted during the breeding season this year and which I have good reasons for believing have bred in or very near our place.

1. Wood Thrush: - Two pairs, one in the Bowditch Run, the other in Davis Swamp.
2. Wilson's Thrush: - These Thrushes have been uncommonly scarce this season. I am sure of only two breeding pairs, one in the Bowditch Run, the other in Davis Swamp. Occasionally a bird has been seen at Ball's Hill, also.
3. Robin: - Present in about the usual numbers. There were at least four or five pairs nesting about the farm house, one or two pairs on the Rieton floor, one pair in their field spring, two or three pairs at Ball's Hill.
4. Catbird: - Commoner than last year. Two pairs at Ball's Hill, one pair at Davis Hill, one pair at Rieton floor, two pairs at farm (one nesting in Blodgett Pasture, the other at the top of one flower garden).
5. Brown Thrasher: - Rather commoner than usual. There was a pair at Pine Park, two pairs on Benjamin's bush grown shrubs, one pair at Green Field & a pair in the garden at our farm. The last-mentioned birds nested only near our house. The 6th sang frequently in the dense chestnuts in

1905.

Concord, Mass.

Summer Residents of our Place.

6. Bluebird: - A pair nesting in Benson's Pasture (in the hole occupied by Hairy Woodpeckers last year), another pair (possibly two pairs) on the Pitcher Plant, a pair in the field opposite the farm house (nesting in a box) and a fourth pair occupying a box (& nesting in it twice this season) on a pole in our flower garden. These are all the birds I found nesting. No doubt there have been other pairs for the birds have been very numerous on all sides of us.
7. Chickadee: At least two pairs at the farm, one at Bell's Hill & one in the Jersey between Bell's & Davis Hills. The last named birds nested in a low stump at the edge of a belt of bushes. One of the pairs at the farm nested in a dead spray of the big elm that stands at the end of our wood shed and at a height of fully 50 feet.
8. Black and White Cuckoo: - Platanus less numerous than usual. Not more than 5 or 6 pairs nested on our land.
9. Golden-crowned Kinglet: - A male established in the Blenheim Pasture singing frequently, also, in the orchards near the house. This was the only bird I noticed.
10. Nashville Warbler: - One male singing in Birch Field, another in the Bartlett Area. I saw the latter once in company with its mate.

1905

Concord, Mass.

Summer Residents of our Place.

11. Yellow Warbler: - As usual a pair sitting in the garden at the farm, another in the thicket by the roadside on the Rte. 1 place, a third in the thickets along the river on North Hill.
12. Chestnut-sided Warbler: - At least four pairs at the farm, two on the wooded slope east of the old barn, two in the Blewett Pasture, one in Barrett Run. No doubt there were others in the North Hill region of which I took no note.
13. Black-burnian Warbler: - Two males singing vigorously in the white pine woods ~~east~~ of Pulpit Rock. One from 7th, after hearing both these birds in their usual place, I found a third male, not two minutes later, in the Barrett Run near the Rte. 1 barn.
14. Black-throated Green Warbler: - Two ♂♂ singing in Pulpit Rock woods, two on Pine Ridge, one in Prescott's Pine, one in the pine grove opposite Ball's Hill on Route 2 in Spring.
15. Pine Warbler: - One ♂ in Pulpit Rock woods, another on Davis Hill, a third on Pine Ridge, a fourth on North Hill, a fifth on Dalton's Hill.
16. Ovenbird: - Much less common than usual. Two or three pairs in the farm woods and four or five pairs elsewhere would probably be a large number.

Concord, Mass.

1908.

Summer Residents of our place

17. Northern Maryland Yellow-throats: - Two pairs at the farm one on the rocky ledge behind the barn, the other in the Berry Pasture. Several pairs also along our river front.
18. Redstart: - One pair breeding in the oak grove behind the old barn at the farm, another near Davis Hill on the river front. There were also I noticed.
19. Red-eyed Vireo: - Much less numerous than usual. We had two pairs near the house at the farm & two or three more pairs in the farm woods. I noticed very few in the Balls Mill region.
20. Solitary Vireo: - One June 6 I found a nest with four fresh looking eggs. It was on Pine Ridge suspended about 7 feet above the ground in the terminal foliage of a slender branch of a white pine. Both birds were at the nest, the ♀ sitting. It sang usually in Davis Swamp. A second male song through June in the Pulpit Rock woods & occasionally on the trees about the farm house.
21. Yellow-throated Vireo: - A pair at the farm (their nest was in a large oak behind the barn) another at Davis Hill, a third at Holden's Hill. There was also a male singing near the station at West Bedford on June 10.

Concord, Mass.

1905:

Summer Birds of our Place.

27. Scarlet Tanager: - Present in about the usual numbers. I have noted a male especially in the oaks bordering our orchard, another in the woods near the Barrett Spring, a third at Davis Hill.
28. Purple Finch: - One singing regularly near the farm house.
29. Goldfinch: - One or two pairs frequenting the orchard at the farm.
30. Grass Finch: - A pair at Pine Park, another in Mr. Harris' pasture, a third in Benjamin's field.
31. Chaffin: - As numerous as usual. We have had about four nesting pairs at the farm. I often see ten or a dozen adult birds in Benjamin's pasture at one time.
32. Finch Sparrow: - I have heard birds singing during this breeding season on Pine Ridge, on the lower crest of Benjamin's, in Black Field & in our Berry Pasture. There are the usual haunts of the Sparrow but have been so far unvisited.
33. Song Sparrow: - Two or three pairs at the farm. Found a nest with four young among the lower pines at the head of our garden on the farm. Have heard the usual number of birds along the river front.

1905.

Concord, Mass.

Summer Residents of our Place.

34. Swamp Sparrows: - Two males singing near Ball's Hill.
35. Towhees. Two or three pairs at the farm where they chiefly frequent the Berry Pasture & the Duck Pond although the males sing frequently in the trees close about the house & I have frequently thought there may have been a nest in the thickets at the rear of our garden. There is also a pair of Towhees strong in North Field.
36. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: - Two or three pairs in the farm woods, a pair at Davis Hill and a pair in Ball's Hill woods. Last year a pair had three young in the forgettin bush in front of the farm house but none were nested outside the woods this year.
37. Indigo Bird: - Two pairs nesting at the farm one nest being in the forgettin bush in front of the house, the others among wild raspberry bushes in the rear of the kitchen house. A third male has been very close days at the rear of our flower garden but I doubt if he has had a mate.
38. Bobolink: - Comparatively scarce this year. A pair near West Bedford Station, another pair in Mrs. Harris' woods & a third pair in Lawrence's field (opposite the Bangs place) are all I feel sure can be counted.

Concord, Mass.

1905:

Summer Residents of our Place.

39. Cowbird: - Present in the wood vernal
but strangely uncommon (as usual) after
the beginning of June.
40. Red-winged Blackbird: - About six to eight
notes singing along the line between Perkins
& Davis Hills. This is a Cayan vernal
than I expected in view of the fact that
two birds were broken up by floods in
June 1903 & 1904.
- [Meadow Lark on June 16 I heard a Lark in
the Bayview Brook vernal opposite Rudolph's
Pavilion house. This is as near our place
as they often (or ever) come.
41. Baltimore Oriole: - A pair breeding in
Baron's elms, another at the rear of one
farm house (in an elm) a third in
Mr. Harris' elms. There are several more
in this neighborhood. Last year we had
two nests at the farm very near the house.
The notes of all the pairs great sustained
long, exactly the same long & a peculiar long
it is. I do not hear it except in this
neighborhood.
42. Broward Grosbeak: A pair nesting in the
Cane white pine at West Bedford Station
& occasionally visiting North Hill.

1905.

Coweset, Mass.

Summer Residents of our Place.

43. Crows: - More numerous than last year but not so yet back to normal numbers. A unit on Balls Hill & another in pines on Mt. Bedford above Opposite this hill.
44. Blue Jay: - Unusually numerous. Laying the birds in search of eggs in pines & occasionally in pines of trees on farm. I think at least big pines have been in our woods. I found a unit in May on Balls Hill.
45. King bird: - Exceptionally scarce. A pair nested in a bush on the roadside east of Balls Hill & another pair have frequented the Patten place. None have been this year in the orchard at our farm.
46. Crested Flycatcher: - As usual a single pair in the farm orchard. There was no nest in the usual place but on June 18 I saw the female enter a hole in an apple tree lower down the tree. I have suspected both last year & this that there was a second pair breeding in Birch Field where we often find the birds but they wonder to I cannot be sure they are not our farm birds.

Covead, Mass.

1905.

Summer Residents of our Place.

47. Phoebe: - Four nesting pairs one in the barn shed at Balls Hill, one at Bensons, one in the cellar of the Pitkin barn and one in the wood floor under the eaves of our old barn. The Pitkin floor bird is now (June 18) sitting on her second clutch of eggs.
48. Wood Pewee: - A bird at the farm (singing sometimes in the big oaks on the nose of the barn, sometimes in Puffer's Rock woods) another in the oak woods east of the Pitkin floor, a third in Prescott's pines, a fourth on Davis Hill.
49. Great Flycatcher: One pair at the Pitkin floor, another at the nose of our flower garden, a third in Mc-Gee's orchard at West Bedford. The birds in our garden built their nest in a corner position (cf journal).
50. Herring bird: - A pair visiting the flower garden at the farm almost daily. Saw the ♂ there June 14. On June 8 found nest 2 eggs in isolated apple tree near of Pitkin barn. On the 15th saw both eggs. Found one of them hatched on morning of 18th.

Concord, Mass.

1905:

Summer Residents of our Place:

51. Chipping Swift: - Two pairs at Farm, one at Ricketts place, one at Bensons. Frequently heard birds in our chimney & saw one under chimney of Ricketts house bearing a twig in its bill on evening June 15.
52. Whippoorwill: Heard nearly every evening in way out the fence usually one or two birds towards the W. & N. W. Also heard frequently in early June. On the evening of May 24 a bird began singing opposite Bolls Hill in the woods near my back house. I heard it there afterwards & probably heard it regularly through the first half of June. I have never before known a Whippoorwill to spend the breeding season so near Bolls Hill.
- [Hairy Woodpecker. I doubt if any Hairy woodpeckers have bred on our land this year although I noted two down April 9 & on June 3. I have never known them to be so nearly about before.]
53. Downy Woodpecker: - A pair nested at the Farm in a wild apple tree on Barrett Run & I saw another nest in a poplar at W. end of Bolls Hill.
54. Flicker. About the usual number. A nest in tall elm at N. end of farm house in June held three fresh hatched birds June 28.

1905

Summer Residents of our Place.

Common, these

55. Red-throated Hawk: Seen or heard very frequently especially about the farm & also at Boies Hill. No nests found. The nest on edge of Davis Swamp where a brood was saved but you was not overheard this season. I have never known a pair to breed twice in the same nest, or even in the same woods, in this neighborhood.
56. Carolina Dove. Exceptionally common in early April. but I think only one or two pairs settled to breed. I should find a nest with 2 eggs on Pine Ridge May 16 but it was apparently robbed probably by Jays. I found a bird which acted as if she had young, in the same woods on May 12.
57. Ruffed Grouse: Nesting more common than usual. Birds nesting in Bonnell Run, Birch Field, at the Spring & in Davis Swamp. Nest of eggs Boies Hill Swamp. All eggs hatched & brood seen later. Another brood seen in Poplar Rock woods.
- [I saw one brood sitting on the farm May 21 & 23 but none later]
58. Green Heron. One or two pairs only - along the river

1905-

Concord, Mass

Summer Residents of our Place.

59. Night Hawk: One to three birds seen almost every day (mostly heard at night) flying over Great Meadows during May & June. I found 4 holes over the farm house on May 30. I think there must have been a breeding colony in Bedford Swamp.

[Woodcock: - Only one record of occurrence, for April 3 when a bird sang over the Perry Pasture at Ten P.M. A pair bred here last year.]

60. Spotted Sandpiper: - In usual numbers along our river front & on Doherty's Hill.

61. Virginia Rail: - I heard one or two in May & others were heard by 7 o'clock in early June, in the wooded spots on Ball's Hill.

1905

July 10

On June 8th I found a Hummer's nest in apple tree on the picnic place. It was attached to a drooping branch or twig (about 1/2 in. diameter) some seven feet above the ground, and there contained 2 eggs which looked dark-colored as if somewhat incubated. On the 18th there were one egg and a freshly hatched bird. On July 1 there were 2 young about half-grown and covered with whitish down. On July 9 (7 P.M.) the young were still in the nest sitting facing the same way, side by side. They appeared fully grown and feathered and their bills were of full length & shaped like an adult's. The next morning when I visited the nest at 8 o'clock one of the young had disappeared. The other was perched on the rim of the nest sitting very quiet & still. I touched its back with my finger when it at once took wing flying like an adult, very fast, and heading down for the hedge of the barn where it alighted. I have not seen the old bird near the nest for two or three weeks. Forbush, however, has repeatedly seen him there and as late as yesterday he watched her feed the young by regurgitation. He also saw the young pick ants off the edge of the nest & eat them. A male Hummer, presumably the father of these young has been in the flower garden at our house (about 300 yds. from the nest) during the entire season but he has not been seen at the nest.

Hummer's
nest.

Cambridge, Mass.

1905

July 13

I have been at home most of the time since July 5th Robin roost and have watched the Robin roost in the lilacs nearly every evening when the birds were coming in. Up to the 11th I saw no more than twenty-five or thirty but on that evening there were at least one hundred and on last evening and this fully two hundred. Their incoming occurs later and extends over a shorter period than has been the case at this roost during previous years. In fact few birds appear now until sometime after sunset and most of them come in practically together just before dark. A large proportion are young in full adult plumage. The old males still being much. The roost was not kept under close observation through the spring. Mr. Deane tells me that he noted the birds roosting to it first on May 27 when, at 7 P.M., about twenty-five were seen starting about the lilacs and others heard in the foliage.

Mr. Deane has repeatedly seen Robins eating fruit in the catstaps this season. A large hump of fruit, composed of those in February or March, has lasted until very recently and has been frequently visited by Robins, Catbirds and Orioles. The Robins were seen eating it on April 17, May 29, and June 7.

Shortly before sunset this evening a number of Chimney Swifts appeared at a considerable height over the garden. There were six at first, four afterwards eight, and finally ten. They revolved in light for upwards of twenty minutes & then drifted off in different directions. I was surprised at finding so many together here at this date which is too early, I think, for migration. Heretofore no more than two have been noted at any one time this year. I cannot ascertain where Swifts continue to roost in Cambridge.

Work of
Swifts

September.

1901
September
Billie, Maine
Eys. Twin
L-10

- ✓ Saxifraga 11' 2' 4' 5' 6' 7' 8' 9' 10' 11' 12' 13' 14' 15' 16' 17' 18' 19' 20' 21' 22' 23' 24' 25' 26' 27' 28' 29' 30' 31' 32' 33' 34' 35' 36' 37' 38' 39' 40' 41' 42' 43' 44' 45' 46' 47' 48' 49' 50' 51' 52' 53' 54' 55' 56' 57' 58' 59' 60' 61' 62' 63' 64' 65' 66' 67' 68' 69' 70' 71' 72' 73' 74' 75' 76' 77' 78' 79' 80' 81' 82' 83' 84' 85' 86' 87' 88' 89' 90' 91' 92' 93' 94' 95' 96' 97' 98' 99' 100' 101' 102' 103' 104' 105' 106' 107' 108' 109' 110' 111' 112' 113' 114' 115' 116' 117' 118' 119' 120' 121' 122' 123' 124' 125' 126' 127' 128' 129' 130' 131' 132' 133' 134' 135' 136' 137' 138' 139' 140' 141' 142' 143' 144' 145' 146' 147' 148' 149' 150' 151' 152' 153' 154' 155' 156' 157' 158' 159' 160' 161' 162' 163' 164' 165' 166' 167' 168' 169' 170' 171' 172' 173' 174' 175' 176' 177' 178' 179' 180' 181' 182' 183' 184' 185' 186' 187' 188' 189' 190' 191' 192' 193' 194' 195' 196' 197' 198' 199' 200' 201' 202' 203' 204' 205' 206' 207' 208' 209' 210' 211' 212' 213' 214' 215' 216' 217' 218' 219' 220' 221' 222' 223' 224' 225' 226' 227' 228' 229' 230' 231' 232' 233' 234' 235' 236' 237' 238' 239' 240' 241' 242' 243' 244' 245' 246' 247' 248' 249' 250' 251' 252' 253' 254' 255' 256' 257' 258' 259' 260' 261' 262' 263' 264' 265' 266' 267' 268' 269' 270' 271' 272' 273' 274' 275' 276' 277' 278' 279' 280' 281' 282' 283' 284' 285' 286' 287' 288' 289' 290' 291' 292' 293' 294' 295' 296' 297' 298' 299' 300' 301' 302' 303' 304' 305' 306' 307' 308' 309' 310' 311' 312' 313' 314' 315' 316' 317' 318' 319' 320' 321' 322' 323' 324' 325' 326' 327' 328' 329' 330' 331' 332' 333' 334' 335' 336' 337' 338' 339' 340' 341' 342' 343' 344' 345' 346' 347' 348' 349' 350' 351' 352' 353' 354' 355' 356' 357' 358' 359' 360' 361' 362' 363' 364' 365' 366' 367' 368' 369' 370' 371' 372' 373' 374' 375' 376' 377' 378' 379' 380' 381' 382' 383' 384' 385' 386' 387' 388' 389' 390' 391' 392' 393' 394' 395' 396' 397' 398' 399' 400' 401' 402' 403' 404' 405' 406' 407' 408' 409' 410' 411' 412' 413' 414' 415' 416' 417' 418' 419' 420' 421' 422' 423' 424' 425' 426' 427' 428' 429' 430' 431' 432' 433' 434' 435' 436' 437' 438' 439' 440' 441' 442' 443' 444' 445' 446' 447' 448' 449' 450' 451' 452' 453' 454' 455' 456' 457' 458' 459' 460' 461' 462' 463' 464' 465' 466' 467' 468' 469' 470' 471' 472' 473' 474' 475' 476' 477' 478' 479' 480' 481' 482' 483' 484' 485' 486' 487' 488' 489' 490' 491' 492' 493' 494' 495' 496' 497' 498' 499' 500' 501' 502' 503' 504' 505' 506' 507' 508' 509' 510' 511' 512' 513' 514' 515' 516' 517' 518' 519' 520' 521' 522' 523' 524' 525' 526' 527' 528' 529' 530' 531' 532' 533' 534' 535' 536' 537' 538' 539' 540' 541' 542' 543' 544' 545' 546' 547' 548' 549' 550' 551' 552' 553' 554' 555' 556' 557' 558' 559' 560' 561' 562' 563' 564' 565' 566' 567' 568' 569' 570' 571' 572' 573' 574' 575' 576' 577' 578' 579' 580' 581' 582' 583' 584' 585' 586' 587' 588' 589' 590' 591' 592' 593' 594' 595' 596' 597' 598' 599' 600' 601' 602' 603' 604' 605' 606' 607' 608' 609' 610' 611' 612' 613' 614' 615' 616' 617' 618' 619' 620' 621' 622' 623' 624' 625' 626' 627' 628' 629' 630' 631' 632' 633' 634' 635' 636' 637' 638' 639' 640' 641' 642' 643' 644' 645' 646' 647' 648' 649' 650' 651' 652' 653' 654' 655' 656' 657' 658' 659' 660' 661' 662' 663' 664' 665' 666' 667' 668' 669' 670' 671' 672' 673' 674' 675' 676' 677' 678' 679' 680' 681' 682' 683' 684' 685' 686' 687' 688' 689' 690' 691' 692' 693' 694' 695' 696' 697' 698' 699' 700' 701' 702' 703' 704' 705' 706' 707' 708' 709' 710' 711' 712' 713' 714' 715' 716' 717' 718' 719' 720' 721' 722' 723' 724' 725' 726' 727' 728' 729' 730' 731' 732' 733' 734' 735' 736' 737' 738' 739' 740' 741' 742' 743' 744' 745' 746' 747' 748' 749' 750' 751' 752' 753' 754' 755' 756' 757' 758' 759' 760' 761' 762' 763' 764' 765' 766' 767' 768' 769' 770' 771' 772' 773' 774' 775' 776' 777' 778' 779' 780' 781' 782' 783' 784' 785' 786' 787' 788' 789' 790' 791' 792' 793' 794' 795' 796' 797' 798' 799' 800' 801' 802' 803' 804' 805' 806' 807' 808' 809' 810' 811' 812' 813' 814' 815' 816' 817' 818' 819' 820' 821' 822' 823' 824' 825' 826' 827' 828' 829' 830' 831' 832' 833' 834' 835' 836' 837' 838' 839

140-5 Letter Man 2/20/10

- ✓ Capitata 2' 4' 6' 7' 8' 9'
- ✓ capitata 5' 6' 10'
- ✓ Ceratina f. can. 6' 8'
- ✓ Colaptes 6' 7'
- ✓ Geothlypis trichas 2' 4' 6' 8'
- ✓ Dendroica viridis 5' 8' 9' 2'
- ✓ Spinus americanus 2'
- ✓ Sitta canadensis 6' 8'
- ✓ Tringa solitaria 8'
- ✓ Tyrannus 2' 8'

Concord, Mass.

1905-

Sept. 29

Brilliantly clear and very warm. Forenoon calm; E. wind in P.M.

About 8 a.m. a flock of 24 Black Ducks appeared over Ball's Hill coming from the north. They circled very many times over Great Meadows, evidently compelled to alight, but they were finally frightened by some gunners who were shooting at Snipe.

There was evidently a heavy flight of Snipe for fully fifty shots were fired in the meadow during the day. I saw them Snipe on wing just after the Ducks passed and heard one bird drum once just before this.

Snipe
drums at
8 a.m. in
clear weather.

October 1

Early morning cloudy; remainder of day clear and very warm. Light S.W. wind.

A flock of 15 Black Ducks passed over Ball's Hill about 10 A.M. As I have earlier I shot fully 100 Arrows in the meadow just below Rich Island.

About noon Mr. Folsom and I were standing in front of the cabin when we heard a continuous low vibrant sound not unlike the rattling of a Rattle Snipe.

It proved to come from a small Wood Frog which a rattle Snipe had just swallowed head first. The sound ceased before we found the Frog, but there was no question as to its origin.

As I was crossing Mr. Howe's pasture about 2 P.M. I saw a large woodchuck flattened out on its back, nearly level ground. Some forty yards off. I flung a stone at him but he did not move. Continuing to walk him with slower I approached him slowly within four feet. He neither moved nor threatened. As I began to circle around him he made a rush for his hole which I had up to that time unwittingly cut him off from!

Concord, Mass.

1905.

October 17

Clear and cool with light N. wind.

At 7.30 P.M. I started to walk from the cabin to the farm taking a lighted lantern. It was a clear, calm starlit night. As I neared bird gate two Mockers in the river made a succession of abrupt startled plunges close to the bank.

Nothing else of interest happened until I reached the woods that lie between the farm and the Ritchie place. As I was crossing the causeway in these woods a Saw-whet Owl began calling among the large maples on my right & another answered from the distance to the westward. The first was about 50 yds off.

He regularly uttered eight or ten notes in rather slow succession. His voice was startlingly loud in the still night air. His calls reminded me strongly of the notes of the Black-billed Cuckoo's song. Indeed they were very like them but louder & more noise steady. He called in all a dozen times or more. This happened about half an hour before the moon rose.

After listening to the Saw-whets for several minutes I started on when I noticed for the first time what looked like a V-shaped piece of white paper in the path. I walked forward & stopped within two feet of it holding the lantern well up. It still looked like a piece of paper & I was about to stoop & pick it up when a dusky form began to materialize about it. This slowly resolved itself into the shape of a large Skunk who had flattened himself on his belly in the path facing me. I now saw his nose working as he snuffed the air & his little glistering beady eyes. After talking to him awhile I stepped back a few paces when he rose to his feet turned about & trotted off up the path as nimbly as a cat & with much the same gait carry his long tail nearly straight out on a level with his back. Finally he turned out of the path & trotted off among the trees. He did not once look back at me.

Cambridge, Mass.

1905
Nov. 10

Clear and cool with strong N.W. wind.

As I was writing in the Museum this evening (about 9.30 P.M.) I heard twice apparently coming from the garden the long even roll with which I heard here so often last spring and which I believe to be the love song of the Screech Owl. It was in every respect identical with this spring roll and distinctly different from, although not wholly unlike, the series of notes (not the whistling ones) that the bird often utters in summer and autumn. When I described (& illustrated) this spring roll to F. W. Chapman he assured me that he had heard the F. W. Screech Owl with similar sounds at the approach of its breeding season. Mess. G. H. Towbush also tells me that he has heard the same roll at Hingham in February and March but not at other seasons.

Love notes
of *Myotis*
otis.

Without referring to the notes which I believe I made last spring I should describe the roll that I heard to-night as follows. It consisted of a number (certainly more than a dozen) of low, hollow notes given with exceeding rapidity and all on the same key without special emphasis. The general effect may be imitated by forcibly expelling the breath at the same time shaking the palm of the hand as rapidly as possible against the lips a trick well known to & often practiced by street gamins. The rolling roll of the Owl, however, is less loud than that made by the small boy. It is also more hollow and the notes are given more quickly and smoothly. Furthermore it has somewhat equal proportions & it is often difficult to decide as to the direction whence it comes.

Cambridge, Mass.

1905.

Nov. 11

Clear & mild with light S. W. wind.

Awakening at 7 A.M. at Mrs. Scudeler's on Burlington Cardinal
Street where I am staying at present I heard coming in Grassbrook
through the four windows and evidently from very near at hand
the sharp metallic chirp of a Cardinal. The sound soon ceased
but when I stepped outside at 7.40 I heard it again and
quickly caught sight of the bird perched in a maple within
a few yards of the front steps. It was a male in full
but rather light red plumage. I watched the song notes many
times but the bird paid no apparent heed to them. A few
minutes later he flew off into the Smith's grounds - or perhaps
into those of Mr. Spelman just beyond - and I saw no
more of him. This, no doubt, was the same bird as
that which has been seen repeatedly during the past month
in and near the Botanic Garden. On October 24th
Miss Pearson telephoned me that he had been seen almost
daily in this ground (on Garden Street very near the
Botanic Garden) "during the past few weeks."

There were many birds in our garden to-day - a
Robin, a Cedar bird, two Chickadees, a Kinglet, a Hermit,
two Fox Sparrows, a Yellow-rumped Warbler and a
Downy Woodpecker & a Blue Jay.

Birds in
the Garden

The Cedar bird seen in the Garden looked like a very
young bird. It had almost no sign of a crest as yet
and the obscure streaks on the breast, which are found
in young in full plumage, were plainly visible. I doubt
if it could have been more than five weeks old. It
was in the Parlor when I was visiting the fruit which, however,
it was not seen to eat. I got within a few yards of it.

Young
Cedar Bird.

Cambridge, Mass.

1905

Nov. 20

H. M. Spelman announced at the meeting of the Natural Club this evening that a ♂ Cardinal has been spending the past week in his father's grounds on Sparks Street. This no doubt is the same bird that I saw at Mrs. Scudder's on the morning of the 11th and that has been frequenting the Botanic Garden earlier in the autumn. Some men who have been destroying gypsy moth's nests in our grounds during the past week (when I was in New York) tell me that they saw a large bright red bird with a conspicuous crest in our garden, on the 17th and 18th of the month. It was also seen in the same place by one of Mrs. Bates's daughters.

Cardinal
Groebner
in our
garden.

" 23

I had the pleasure of seeing the Cardinal in our garden this evening - in the red cedar at the rear of the house. It was evidently the same bird I saw at Mrs. Scudder's on the 11th a rather pale red male. It chirped incessantly but did not sing.

" 30

Heard the Cardinal in our lilacs late this afternoon. It chirped loudly and incessantly for several minutes but I could not get a sight at it although I followed up the branch until it finally ceased.

Dec. 8

The Cardinal spent nearly an hour in our garden this forenoon. After hopping over the ground about the pond and under the lilacs he visited the sweet ~~but~~ ^{cedar} respecting it from a distance of less than 2 ft. but was offering to touch it. His ^{note}, a sharp, metallic chirp, was uttered every few seconds. Still later: The Cardinal came to a ~~branch~~ ^{ledge} of alder ~~just~~ on the outer ledge of my study window and helped himself freely to the sweet which we keep there for the birds.



Jour

18

Feb.

17

Apr.